



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Breck Daughtrey, City Clerk

COPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meeting

October 19, 2012

Attached are the minutes of the Regular Session Council meeting held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012.

Breck

## **NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

### **REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012**

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Burfoot, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn.

NRHA Commissioners present were: Shep Miller, Chair, Nash Bilisoly, Mrs. Rose Arrington and Barbara Hamm Lee.

He thereupon welcomed members of the NRHA Board of Commissioners for a joint meeting with the council and called on the Executive Director, Shurl Montgomery to begin.

#### **A. NRHA BUDGET CHALLENGES**

Mr. Montgomery reported:

- The budget continues to decline and the \$4 million gap reported in March as been closed for a \$89.3 million total budget.
- Discussions are ongoing with the city on shared services.
- CDBG funds continue to shrink due to federal reductions.
- The HOME Program has assisted over 600 first time home buyers since 1992 but congressional funding has shrunk by 50% in two years.
- Projected five year revitalization needs include: 1) completion of site improvements in Central Brambleton, Mid-Town and Park Place; 2) continued support for East Ocean View redevelopment; 3) prepare development concepts for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Bay Streets; 4) spot demolition in Willoughby; 5) develop 16 new apartments in Grandy Village and 47 apartments near Partrea; 6) pursue development of Moton site; 7) support city neighborhood plans; 8) develop new apartments at Oakmont; 9) complete renovation of Monroe Building for Governor's School of Arts.
- Public Housing operating funds support 3,535 assisted housing units in 12 communities with 8,588 residents or 3.7% of city's population with an average

income of \$8,463. Federal funding has fallen short of needs, the gap was paid from NRHA reserves.

- Average age of public housing is 59 years and it is projected \$213 million in repairs/renovations will be required during the next 20 years, or \$10.7 million a year to maintain the stock at current levels.
- NRHA uses 2,851 total vouchers that house 6,844 residents – 3% of city's population – in private market rentals with average household income of \$16,419.
- Housing Choice Voucher Program includes 1260 property owners; federal funding is not keeping pace with increasing rents; and NRHA has exhausted \$2.3 million in reserves to assist the existing 2851 participants.
- NRHA will continue to be challenged by federal funding reductions.

Council discussed options for maintaining public housing stock with Mr. Riddick suggesting NRHA examine its structure and adapt it to the new realities offering more extensive uses of shared services with the city.

In discussing evictions for under reporting income, Ms. Williams asked if reminders are sent to residents about this. Mr. Montgomery said yes.

Dr. Whibley asked for reports back on results for the funds expended and results for work done in the neighborhoods NRHA has been working in.

Mr. Smigiel asked what the city can do to help NRHA develop properties in Ocean View. Mr. Miller said help with infrastructure is needed. Mr. Smigiel urged council to move faster to fund developments of available parcels.

## **B. ST. PAUL'S AREA PLAN**

Mr. Montgomery provided an update on the St. Paul's Area Plan and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Planning Grant. Norfolk was one of 17 cities in the country who received the first planning grant of this type. It was thought that the planning grant would put Norfolk in line for the \$30 million implementation grant. However, HUD said that is not the case, but we are better off than others who have not gone through the planning grant process.

A chronological history was provided on the St. Paul's Area Plan and CNI Planning Grant. It listed the meetings of the partners including the city, NRHA, community, businesses and churches. A map was also provided of the St. Paul's area and it also included an expanded area that will be impacted by this initiative.

Mr. Miller noted that the NRHA was not the leader of the planning process and that even though they are a large stakeholder that it's been a city led process. He expressed that it continues to be a concern that a funding source has not been identified to make the St. Paul's Area Plan happen.

The CNI Planning Grant Timeline was provided. There are several pieces that are needed to move forward:

- Agreement on St. Paul's vision and housing program
- Continued supportive services and enhanced partnerships for resident self-sufficiency efforts.
- Future land use decisions within the boundaries of the area plan
- Identification of infrastructure needs and funding requirements
- Consensus on funding priority and implementation timing

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative next steps are:

- Continue discussions with HUD regarding grant requirements and timeline.
- Conduct extended discussions with NRHA Board and city Council that will provide clearly defined parameters regarding this initiative.
- Develop an action plan to move forward on the redevelopment of the St. Paul's area.

Mr. Riddick asked if there were any partnerships with a church, for example, to begin building housing for the elderly residents of Tidewater Gardens to alleviate the fear they have of losing their homes.

Mayor Fraim asked the City Manager to schedule time in January to discuss the St. Paul's plan, stating that he understood the goal was initially to improve the lives of the people who live there and that continues to be his goal.

## **C. COUNCIL INTERESTS**

1. Councilman Protogyrou reported on the Norfolk Highway Safety meeting stating there have been 11 accidents with fatalities and several have raised concerns among the members. The following were areas of major concern: a) the ramp onto Tidewater Drive at Rufner, b) Northampton Boulevard at the on-ramp to the

interstate and c) 4<sup>th</sup> View Street, d) speeding on Hampton Boulevard. Another area of concern that needs immediate attention is the area between TCC and MacArthur Mall where citizens are walking across the garden courtyard and not the designated crosswalk. He suggested that a railing is needed which would force citizens to go to the crosswalk. Mayor Fraim added that they also need a railing by the construction area of the new courthouse.

2. Councilman Winn reiterated an earlier request to have information on real estate tax refunds for the last three to four years.
3. Vice Mayor Burfoot expressed concerns about gun violence in the city and said a plan is needed for where to concentrate efforts to combat the problem.
4. Councilman Smigiel asked: a) for an update on red light cameras, b) for an update on the Traveler's Inn status and c) for the cost of the truancy center and if closing it has had an impact on crime.
5. Mayor Fraim: a) reviewed the December 11th inauguration of passenger rail service, b) commented on the handout about poverty and transportation and c) encouraged Council Members to attend tomorrow morning's Homeless Connect at Scope beginning at 8 a.m.
6. With respect to the NRHA Budget Challenges discussion, Councilwoman Whibley asked for reports back on results for the funds expended and results of work done in the neighborhoods NRHA has been working in.